

**IN THE CLAIMS:****Listing Of The Claims:**

1-46 (Cancelled)

47. (Previously presented) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above the embedding medium's melting point to form a liquefied embedding medium; and

applying an immiscible liquid to the biological sample to separate the liquefied embedding medium from the biological sample.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the immiscible liquid comprises water.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the immiscible liquid comprises a detergent.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-ionic surfactants.

51. (previously amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of octylphenoxypolyethoxy (5) ethanol, polyoxyethelene(20)sorbitan, polyoxyethelene(23) dodecyl ether, sodium dodecylsulfate and saponin.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the embedding medium comprises paraffin wax.

53. (Previously presented) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

applying an immiscible liquid to a biological sample; and

heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above the embedding medium's melting point thereby separating the embedding medium from the biological sample with the immiscible liquid.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the immiscible liquid comprises water.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the immiscible liquid comprises a detergent.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-ionic surfactants.

57. (previously amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of octylphenoxypolyethoxy (5) ethanol, polyoxyethelene(20)sorbitan, polyoxyethelene(23) dodecyl ether, sodium dodecylsulfate and saponin.

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the embedding medium is paraffin wax.

59-74. (withdrawn)

75. (new) The method of claim 47 comprising the additional step of staining said biological sample.

76. (new) The method of claim 75 wherein the step of staining comprises using an immunohistochemical stain.

77. (new) The method of claim 75 wherein the step of staining comprises using a detectably labeled nucleotide sequence and *in situ* hybridization.

78. (new) The method of claim 53 comprising the additional step of staining said biological sample.

79. (new) The method of claim 78 wherein the step of staining comprises using an immunohistochemical stain.

80. (new) The method of claim 78 wherein the step of staining comprises using a detectably labeled nucleotide sequence and *in situ* hybridization.